



# St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have made it! I am still amazed we have managed to keep all bubbles open right to the very end but we have. A huge well done for everyone's help in supporting us with restrictions so that this was able to happen. It has been a St John's community effort to give the children a normal ending to an academic school year and provide a bit of what we used to know as normality!

This sets the theme of my letter for this week. I want to take the time to thank you as parents for being so supportive over such a difficult period. Since my return from maternity leave in February, I have had many e-mails welcoming me back, lovely e-mails of support and thanks, and I can't tell you how much they have meant to me; so again thank you so much. Equally, the feedback we received from parents, on the recent parent survey, we asked you to complete was overwhelming. Considering how little opportunity you have had to be in school this year and meet with your children's teachers face to face, it is clear from the responses that you trust us and the decisions we make as a school for your children, which means so much to all staff.

In comparison to the rest of the staff, I feel like I've had a bit of an easy ride, being on maternity leave during most of Covid. The people who have been here day in and day out, providing lessons not just for children in the school, but also those working from home, are absolute heroes in my eyes.

The biggest shout out to all of our teachers this year: Miss Dalal, Mr Rudd, Miss Davis, Miss Harrington, Miss Bullen, Mr Camilleri and Miss Jones. They have been a brilliant team this year, teaching children both at home and in school, making changes to their practice, with very short notice, but being as brilliant at it as ever. I am so proud of how hard they have worked! Not forgetting our fantastic teaching assistants, of which we are so lucky to have providing extra support to both our children and our teachers: Ruth, Heddy, Mrs O & Mrs O (I won't write new and old because I will get myself into trouble) Judy, Kristian, Sarah, Sabina, Yvette, Tori and Marilyn. Not only are they worth their weight in gold, but they always put the children first, thinking of ways to make wonderful experiences happen for our children. A huge thank you to Sarah, for organising Sport's day this year and leading sport across the school for us. Bravo to Judy and Heddy, who organised and delivered an excellent trip to France for all children in school yesterday, and celebrating the use of the French language.





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At the heart of everything, keeping myself, Mrs Read and all of the teachers in check are Jackie, Edita and Sandra. There is not much that can stop these ladies from doing what needs to be done. They are currently wrapping up everything for this school year, getting organised for the next academic year and preparing for a financial audit in the summer. We would all be lost without them; thank you for all you do!

Our kitchen staff have also been here throughout the year, working hard to make sure the school meals are healthy and tasty. A huge thank you to Beverly, Janet, Janet and Toshiba. When I ask the children to tell me something good about St John's, they always say the food!

And last, but of course not least, Richard and Adam. Although Adam only joined us in the summer term, it feels like he has been with us forever and has really settled into St John's but with Richard as a mentor, who could blame him. As always, Richard will be working tirelessly during the summer, as he does all through the year, to complete a long list of jobs to make the school a welcoming and engaging place to be for staff, parents and children; we are very lucky to have him!

I am hoping that at some point next year, we can begin to do more of the things we love at St John's: our social events hosted by FOSJ, share our big school celebrations with the community, welcome you into school for assemblies, parents evenings and open days, visit our three local churches, go on school trips, compete in more sports competitions and host events in school.

We are also hoping that we can return to normal school times from September. This would be a 9am start and a 3.30pm finish. We are however, keeping the staggered start approach, and children will be allowed to come into the classes from 8.45am. Gates will be locked by 9.05am. We ask that all children come into school through the main gates at the front of the school. Teacher and teaching assistants will be present in the playground to show and remind children of where they need to line up. The only way these arrangements will change is if we are told otherwise by the DFE during the school holidays. We will notify you via e-mail if that is the case.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break. Whether you are travelling, visiting friends and family, or exploring London, I hope you all manage to keep safe and healthy ready for the return in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

